

# Inventions



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EARLY  
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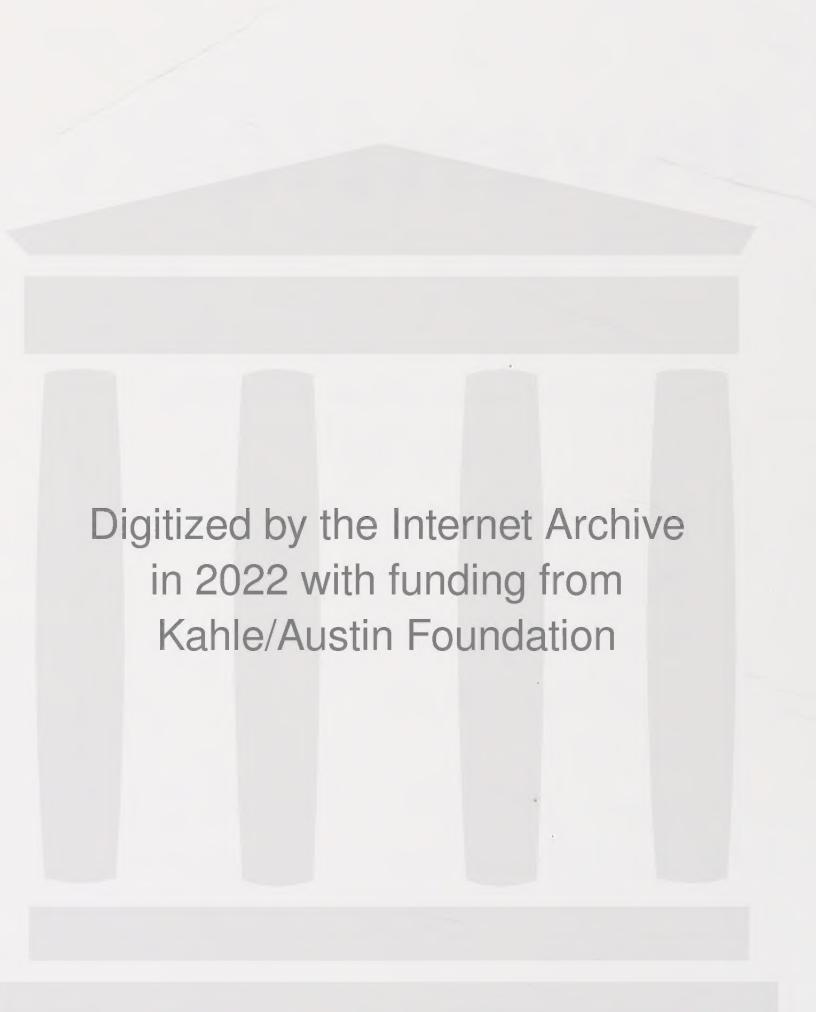
# Inventions

Jennifer Osborne

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An **invention** is something new that comes from ideas and **experiments**. What invention do you see in this picture?

An invention comes into use because it is needed. The wheel came into use because it made it easier to move things.



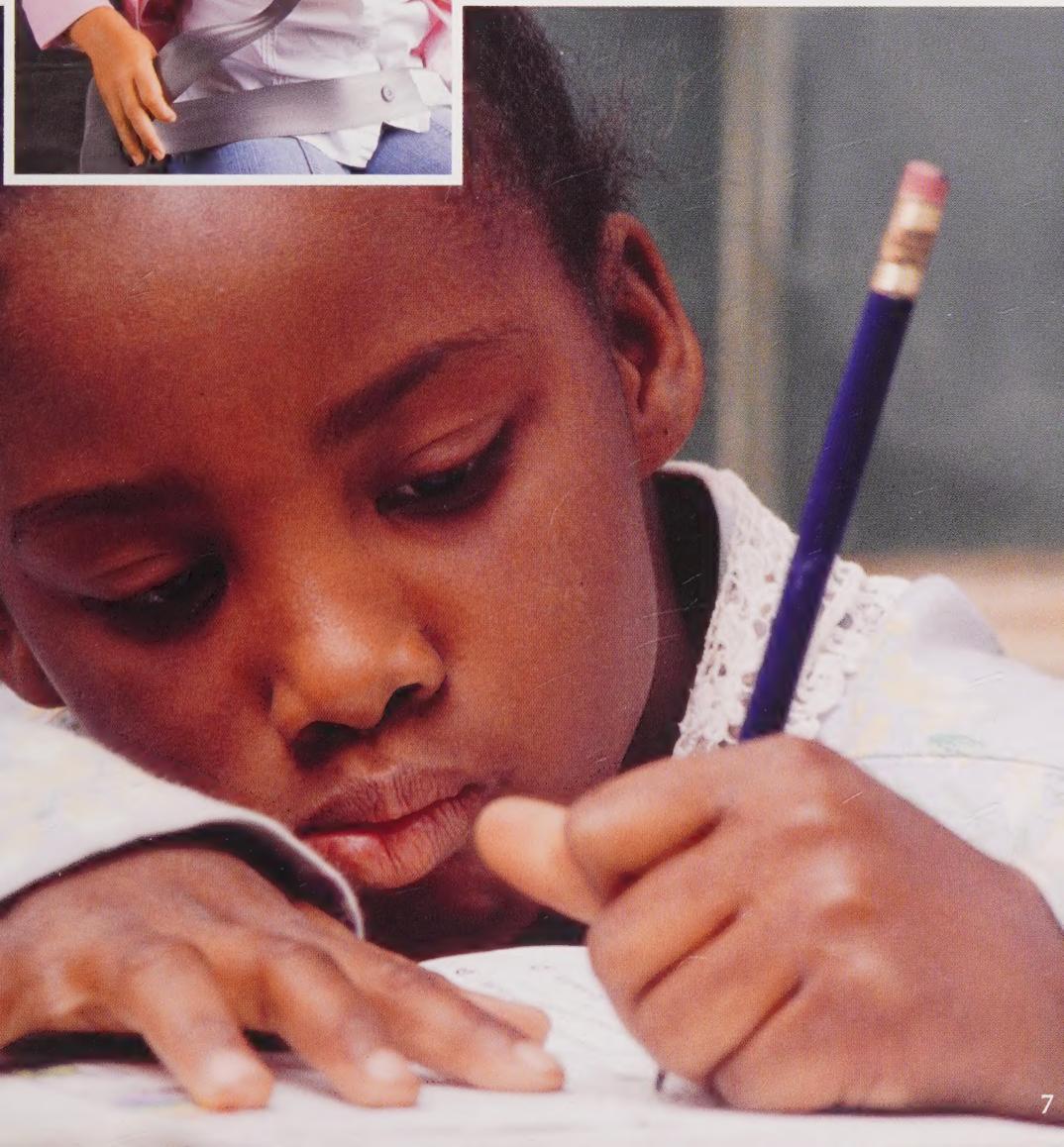
What are some other inventions that use the wheel?



Someone who invents is called an **inventor**. Inventors are **problem solvers**. The **Braille** alphabet was invented so that people who cannot see can read by using their fingers.



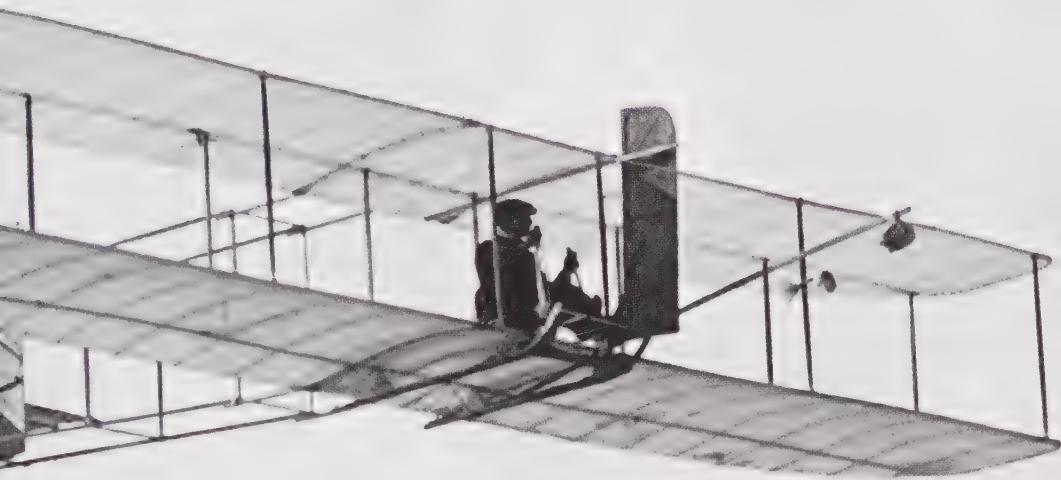
What problems did these inventions solve? Why are these inventions important?



Ideas for inventions can come from anywhere—from watching the world, from listening to other people, from imagining, and from experimenting. What idea came from watching birds fly?

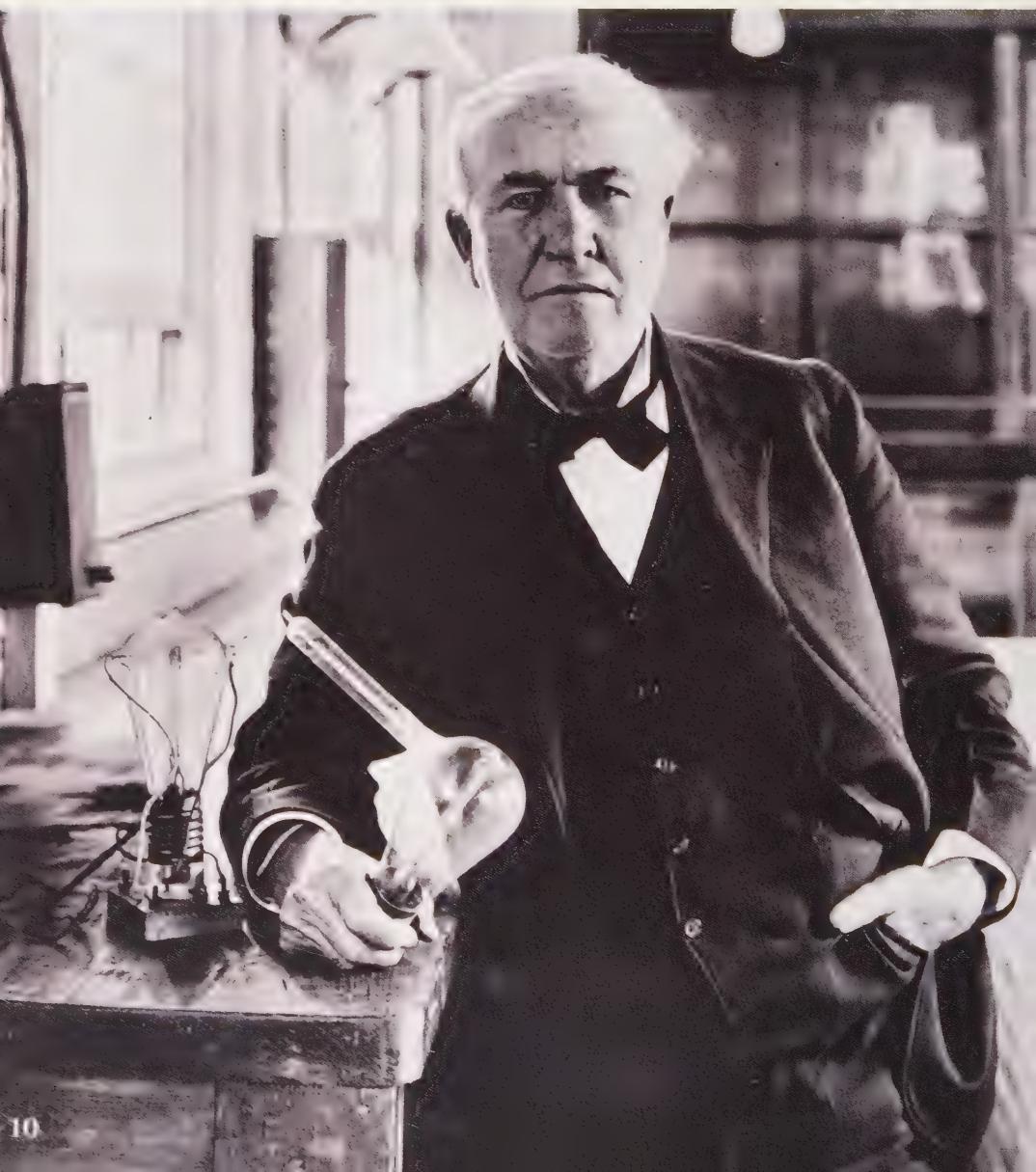


The airplane! Wilbur and Orville Wright invented the airplane in 1903.



Look how the airplane has been changed since it was first invented!

Inventions take time to **develop**.  
Thomas Alva Edison tried at least 6,000  
**materials** and 1,200 experiments before  
he invented a working lightbulb in 1879.



How do you think people made light before the lightbulb? How has Edison's invention changed the way people live?



Inventions can be changed.  
The first cameras could only take  
black-and-white photographs.  
People had to sit very still to have  
their picture taken.



Inventors worked to make the camera better. This photograph was taken with a **modern** camera. How is it different from the older photograph?



Believe it or not, this is what the first telephone looked like. A **scientist** named Alexander Graham Bell invented it in 1876. Why do you think Bell wanted to make this invention?



How do  
you think the  
telephone will  
be changed in  
the future?



Look closely at the **time line** below. How many of these inventions have you used?

**The wheel, 3600 B.C.**

Ancient wheels were solid circles of wood.



**Pendulum clock, 1656.**

This clock is from 1900.



**Radio, 1877.**

This radio is from the 1930s.



3600 B.C.

1440 A.D.

1656

1900

1877



**Printing press, 1440 A.D.**

The printing press made it easier to make books.



**Safety pin, 1849.**

The first safety pins had an open top and were less safe.

What is the **earliest** invention you see?  
What is the latest invention?

**Automobile, 1885.**

This automobile is from 1905.



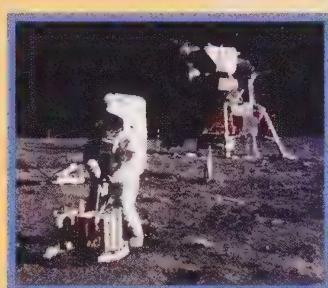
**Computer, 1939.**

This computer is from 1949.



**Lunar module, 1969.**

The *Eagle* was the first invention to land on the Moon.

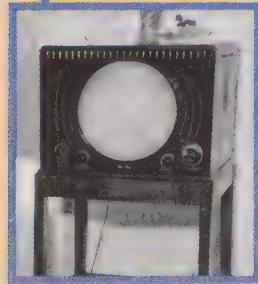


1929

1939

1969

2000s



**Television, 1929.**

Televisions like this one became popular in the 1950s.



**Pet robot, 2000s.**

This robot is a toy. Other robots do real work.

What is your favorite invention?  
How has it changed people's lives?  
You, too, can be an inventor. What  
might you invent?



## Glossary

**Braille** (BRAIL): an alphabet of raised dots invented by Louis Braille

**develop** (di-VEL-up): to help something grow

**earliest** (UR-lee-est): the first or close to the first of its kind

**experiment** (ek-SPER-uh-ment): a way to see if an idea works by testing it

**invention** (in-VEN-shun): a brand-new device or tool

**inventor** (in-VEN-ter): a scientist who develops an idea to make something new

**material** (muh-TEER-ee-ul): what is used to make something

**modern** (MAH-durn): relating to the present time

**problem solver** (PRA-blum SOL-ver): someone who looks to find answers and solutions

**scientist** (SIE-un-tist): a person who studies things by observing and experimenting

**time line** (TIME line): a line chart of important events

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## Think About It

1. Name three inventions that you used today. How could you learn more about each invention?
2. Name a new invention that you would like to use. What does it do?
3. What would you like to invent?

## Fun Facts

- ◆ On its first flight, the Wright Brothers' airplane flew for only about 12 seconds.
- ◆ Louis Braille was only 15 years old when he invented the Braille alphabet.
- ◆ The saxophone was named after its inventor, Adolphe Sax.
- ◆ At age six, Jacob Dunnack invented a baseball bat that can carry baseballs inside. He earned money and won awards because of his invention.



EARLY

# Science

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Inventions

What Is Technology?

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Subject/Strand  
Concepts

Informational Text/Nonfiction  
Science/Technology

ideas, experiments, needs,  
problem solving

Vocabulary

experiment, inventor, imagine,  
material, scientist

Level

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